

**.Minutes Of The  
Transportation Advisory Committee  
Lubbock Metropolitan Planning Organization  
November 1, 2011**

The meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee of the Lubbock Metropolitan Planning Organization was held 916 Main, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, at 2:00 PM on November 1, 2011. Required notices were given to the members of the Committee and the public. The following Transportation Advisory Committee members were present:

Marsha Reed, City of Lubbock  
Bill McCay, Lubbock County  
Brad Patrick, Citibus  
Nick Olenik, Lubbock County  
Steve Warren, TxDOT – Lubbock  
Darrell Newsom, City of Wolforth  
Wood Franklin, City of Lubbock  
Mark Heinrich, Lubbock County

Visitors/Staff: David Jones, Lubbock MPO  
Darrell Westmoreland, Lubbock MPO  
Tera Davis, Lubbock MPO  
Jerry Cash, TxDOT – Lubbock  
Joe Gulick, Lubbock Avalanche Journal

**Call to Order.**

Ms. Reed called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

**The Committee moved to the next item.**

**Acknowledgement of Quorum by Chairman.**

Ms. Reed acknowledged a quorum of the Transportation Advisory Committee. Mr. Jones introduced Mr. Joe Gulick with the Lubbock Avalanche Journal

**Approval of the July 5, 2011 minutes of the Transportation Advisory Committee.**

Ms. Reed asked for any corrections to the July 5, 2011 minutes of the Transportation Advisory Committee. No corrections were made.

***Darrell Newsom made motion to approve the July 5, 2011 minutes of the Transportation Advisory Committee. Steve Warren seconded and the motion passed unanimously.***

**The Committee moved to the next item.**

**General review of the FHWA requirements for Metropolitan Transportation Plans.**

Mr. Jones explained that he included in the backup the current required elements for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. Mr. Jones also pointed out the excerpt of the FHWA Guidebook for the Transportation Planning Process. He stated that all of the information that was included in the agenda item backup would manifest itself into the headings that are under Part II: Major Policy and Planning Issues of the excerpt.

Mr. Jones stated that, at this time, the Lubbock MPO is in attainment status so Air Quality would not be an issue in the update of the MTP. Mr. Jones stated that Performance Measures are a

new item in this edition of the Guidebook and, although there is no current legislation mandating performance measures, FHWA and TxDOT are focusing on written performance measures as part of the process.

Mr. Jones stated the requirement for System Management and Operations, which has been "kneaded" into the Congestion Management Plan in the past, has now been given a life of its own by FHWA. It will cover ITS, including traffic signals and traffic management. TxDOT is currently working on the Travel Demand Model for the Lubbock area. The LMPO will soon begin working on the update to the Functional Classification maps. Mr. Jones stated that the Public Participation Plan would also be reviewed and updated to enhance the LMPO's ability to get the public involved early and often in the planning process.

Mr. Warren stated that the MTP is a crucial component to how we move projects forward. He reminded the TAC that unless a project is included in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, it cannot be included in a Transportation Improvement Program. He stated it is a twenty year planning horizon and it is impossible to actually plan out twenty years, but it is a guide to our construction ability within the first four years of the plan. Mr. Warren said to give serious considerations to the projects we want included in the years of FY 2012 – 2015. Mr. Jones reminded the TPC that the final product must also be financially constrained.

Ms. Reed stated that there are many new faces on the Transportation Advisory Committee since the last update of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan back in 2007. She stated that the twenty year plan dovetails into the Transportation Improvement Program which is the actual construction plan.

**The Committee moved to the next item.**

#### **Review Project Selection Criteria for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan: 2040.**

Mr. Jones stated that although he included the Project Selection Criteria from the previous MTP in the agenda backup, there are no instructions on how this criterion is used to select the projects. Mr. Warren stated that he is not "married" to the way it was done in the past. Ms. Reed stated that we do not have to do it the old way. She suggested that it might be appropriate to appoint a sub-committee of the TAC to restructure the project selection criteria and bring it back to the TAC for a recommendation to the TPC for approval. Mr. Warren stated that was a great idea as the TAC is a large group and it would be difficult for the entire group to come up with the criteria. Mr. Warren stated that he felt it would be best to appoint individuals that have some history with the requirements and what needed to be included.

Ms. Reed stated that she felt one person from each entity would be appropriate. She selected Wood Franklin to represent the City of Lubbock. Mark Heinrich thought that Nick Olenik would be the best representative for Lubbock County. Ms. Reed asked Mr. Newsom to represent the City of Wolfforth and Steve Warren stated that he would appoint Jerry Cash to represent TxDOT. Ms. Reed stated that she and Mr. Jones would finish out the sub-committee. Mr. Jones stated that Citibus did not need to be represented on this item as they will have their own chapter for transit and will use a different set of criteria for project evaluations. Mr. Jones stated he would contact everyone on the sub-committee to put together a time for the first meeting.

**The Committee moved to the next item.**

#### **Review the Call for Projects announcement for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan: 2040.**

Mr. Jones stated that he brought the previous letter for the Call for Projects from the last MTP. He said that he would update the letter but did have a question regarding the Texas Metropolitan Mobility Plan. Mr. Jones stated that he could not find anything in the regulations that call for

revision or inclusion of the TMMP into the new MTP. He stated that the last revision to the TMMP was in 2006. He said that some of the other MPOs have not mentioned it in their MTPs but that others have included it by reference in their plan.

Mr. Warren stated that the TMMP was created by TxDOT to assist in fund distribution and to create the Texas Congestion Index. He stated that it is not a required plan. Mr. Warren stated that TxDOT and TTI worked together on the plan but the plan has not been updated and he does not think that TxDOT will do another call for the TMMP to be updated. Mr. Jones stated that if no one thinks we need to pursue this we will not use the TMMP in our update of the MTP. Mr. Warren agreed.

**The Committee moved to the next item.**

**Review the Timeline for preparation and approval of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan: 2040.**

Mr. Jones stated that the agenda backup for this item is a timeline that was put together to ensure that we meet our September 2012 deadline for the MTP to be approved. Ms. Reed stated that as the sub-committee had just been appointed to update the Project Selection Criteria, which would need to be approved by the TPC prior to any projects being run through the criteria, it would be unrealistic to have a preliminary list together by the December 6<sup>th</sup> TAC meeting. Mr. Jones agreed and said that the timeline would need to be changed. Ms. Reed stated that if the new selection criteria were brought back to the TAC at their December meeting for a recommendation to the TPC at their December meeting, the earliest preliminary run through would be at the TAC January meeting.

Mr. Warren stated that since the previous selection criterion was developed, the Metropolitan Area Boundary has also gone through changes extending to the county line in places. He stated that Woodrow Road was not part of the MAB in the previous MTP but is now included. Ms. Reed stated that the projects that were on top did not reflect a true need. Ms. Reed asked if everyone could get their projects back to Mr. Jones within a month of the Call for Projects release. Everyone agreed. Ms. Reed stated that they could have the Projection Selection Criteria back to the TAC for their December meeting.

Mr. Jones stated that LMPO would make adjustments to the timeline.

**The Committee moved to the next item.**

**Review and discuss "Writing Assignments" for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan: 2040.**

Mr. Jones stated that there are certain parts of the MTP text that the LMPO would need help on to complete the MTP. He stated that we are not trying to "create" new chapters, but to edit and update the current ones. In the agenda backup is a list of the needed updates. Mr. Jones also stated that in the past the Congestion Management Plan has been a "stand-alone" plan, but is now to be included as a chapter in the MTP.

Ms. Reed asked where the TxDOT model is in its update. Mr. Westmoreland stated that it is currently being validated. He stated that it is a two year project with the first being base year validations. After those validations are complete they will move to the forecast. Mr. Warren asked what the base year is. Mr. Westmoreland stated that it is 2006. Ms. Reed asked if the information would be available for the MTP update. Mr. Jones stated that it would not and that we can amend the MTP when the information becomes available.

**The Committee moved to the next item.**

**Discuss the use of a simple survey to enhance Title VI and Environmental Justice performance.**

Mr. Jones stated that he is considering purchasing "Survey Monkey" to enable the LMPO to enhance the Title VI and Environmental Justice requirements. He explained that the LMPO would identify the demographics for Title VI and EJ and then carve out zip codes to shoot the survey out to. Mr. Jones is verifying that the TAC would be in favor. Mr. Jones stated that it would not replace any of the notices for public comment or any of the public meetings but merely enhance our performance. Mr. Jones explained that it would be delivered electronically. There was a question of if the individuals qualifying as Title VI and under EJ would have internet access to complete the survey. Mr. Jones stated that most people these days have cell phones. He stated that we would also put the information on Facebook and Twitter to locate and complete the survey.

**The Committee moved to the next item.**

**Review of the Public Participation Database for corrections and additions to bring it to a current status.**

Mr. Jones stated that the agenda backup for this item is the database used in the previous MTP update. Mr. Jones asked the TAC to review the database and make changes, corrections and deletions to the list. Mr. Jones said that the LMPO would appreciate any information being returned as soon as possible to allow the LMPO to begin utilizing the list for the Call for Projects. Mr. Warren verified if Mr. Jones was planning on sending out the call to everyone on the list. Mr. Jones stated that he was. Mr. Warren stated that he does not feel that is a good idea. He said that the TPC is answerable to the public and that many will submit "garbage". He stated that soon people will be upset with the TPC for not "paving my alley". Mr. Warren stated that he feels that the Call for Projects should only be released to the stakeholders and that the public participation would cover the Title VI giving them a chance to comment and make suggestions.

Mr. Jones agreed that it might be better to just send the Call for Projects to the stakeholders. Mr. Warren said that as a compromise the information could be put on the LMPO website for people to suggest projects. Mr. Jones agreed that would be best.

**The Committee moved to the next item.**

**Reports**

- A. Cities and County
- B. TxDOT
- C. Citibus
- D. Director's

**Lubbock County**

Mr. Olenik stated that Lubbock County purchased a road Reclaimer and has put it to use. He stated they have reclaimed 66<sup>th</sup> Street to Alcove, Frankford and FM 1585 and Woodrow Road. Mr. Olenik stated that the widening of Woodrow Road from Slaton to the Tahoka Highway is complete.

### **City of Lubbock**

Mr. Franklin said that Quaker from 114<sup>th</sup> to 1585 is now under construction. He said that 114<sup>th</sup> from Slide to Memphis has been awarded. He said the next project would be 114<sup>th</sup> from University to Indiana. He said the next award will be the 98<sup>th</sup> street reconstruction. He said that they are working on the 34<sup>th</sup> street design.

Mr. Franklin said that G2, a part of the Lake Allen Henry water pipeline, is going to impact Quaker Avenue on its way to the water treatment plant and they are rebuilding the dirt roads in the county. He said the pipeline is in the ground.

### **City of Wolfforth**

Mr. Newsom said he has no report at this time.

### **TxDOT**

Mr. Warren said that in looking at the current MTP there is a conundrum of projects. He said that the Prop 12 projects are moving along nicely. He said that 3 billion dollars in bonds were released and the TPC chose to use Lubbock's share of MPO funding for the Quaker/Erskine/Loop 289 project. He said it should bid in June or July of next year. He said that they have been working on the frontage roads in Plainview to change them from two way frontage roads to one way. He said they did some work on 349 from Lamesa to Dawson County to make it a "Super 2" with a continuous left turn. He said as there was some unallocated savings, the Woodrow Road bridge project will be built. He said it is currently in the 2013 time frame. He said the staff is working on the design as it had not been completed.

Mr. Warren stated that in looking at the current MTP: 2032, the Woodrow Road project is not included as, at that time, it was not inside the Metropolitan Area Boundary. He wondered if we would need to amend the current MTP to include it or if it would be considered a "rural project" as it was not in the MAB when the MTP was completed. Mr. Warren asked if we could have an item on the regular agenda to include a public meeting to amend the MTP to include the projects that are in the new MAB. Mr. Jones said that we could. Then Mr. Cash noted that since the project wasn't scheduled until 2013, the new MPT would be adopted by then which would include the project in the new MAB. Everyone agreed and noted that an amendment in December was unnecessary.

Mr. Warren stated that they are taking concrete bids on 19<sup>th</sup> Street from University to Indiana and that construction will begin after the first of the year.

### **Citibus**

Mr. Patrick stated that Citibus is working on three funding requests to be submitted to TxDOT by December 1<sup>st</sup> for their Call for Projects. He stated that they include Phases 3 and 4 of the Downtown Plaza and a possible Route Study in the near future.

Mr. Patrick said that the South Plains Regional Coordination Group is collaborating with SPAG to produce and promote the Community Resource Directory to be distributed to the 15 County South Plains Region.

### **Director's Report**

No report. Mr. Jones thanked everyone for their presence and attention to detail.

### **Meeting Adjourned.**

*Ms. Reed adjourned the meeting at 3:08 p.m.*